



After the party's over

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Heat waves shimmer off the 10-foot pile of ashes left from Friday's Aggie Bonfire. A pile of hot coals and ashes remains for some time after the 60-foot stack of logs burned down.

Foreign languages missing

United Press International
The lack of foreign language instruction in American high schools is a major deficit of the American educational process, according to one prominent educator.

"The neglect of foreign languages in schools should concern everyone," Joseph A. Coccia reports in the Bulletin of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Coccia, principal of Cranston High West in Cranston, R.I., said even President Carter has recognized that the United States is alone among nations in its neglect of the study of foreign languages in schools.

The president did what presidents frequently do about problems — he appointed a committee, the Presidential Commission on Foreign Languages, to study the problem and ways of reversing the trend.

Only 15 percent of all U.S. high school students study a modern foreign language. Only two percent of these stick with it to a third year.

All the rest are tongue-tied in any situation where even minimal knowledge of a second language might help them understand a situation better — even order a more palatable meal when confronted by a menu in Spanish, German, French.

When colleges required foreign languages from applicants, the college-bound student enjoyed or suffered through two or four years of foreign languages in high school. They had to take it — whether they found it delight or bitter medicine.

The problem started when colleges abandoned and relaxed the language requirement. Only 10 percent of the nation's 33,000 academic institutions now demand previous study of a second language.

This happened while English gained usage around the world, making it a kind of universal language and lessening the need for a second language by Americans. But that's no excuse for what's happened, says Coccia.

Coccia claims all students can learn a foreign language, not just the college-bound. He said it is important to the nation and students who may use the second language skill making their livings.

The study of another language, he said, should come in two types. The first type would deal with students wanting to major in language or needing it in depth for further professional study.

The second type would be for youths who do not need all the formality of a foreign language, the kind necessary for one aiming for the diplomatic corps, for example.

This would be something of a family and a fun model, Coccia said. The approach should follow "a pattern similar to the way we learned to speak English at home before we entered school and started the speaking of English as a language — which was the only language spoken at home."

"In this model, let's forget formal homework assignments, let's forget textbooks, let's forget structure.

"Let's concentrate on learning vocabulary and pronunciation, the necessary ingredients for speaking the language.

"Eventually this should lead to writing it and total communication — our goal for the mass of our students."

Coccia wants school boards and high schools to recruit qualified dynamic language teachers — inventive, ingenious ones.

He thinks it would be a good idea, too, for schools to let students know about careers where nice livings can be made via skill with a foreign language.

Other elements in Coccia's prescription:

—Colleges should reassess their admission requirements in foreign languages.

—The United States should promote international exchanges of teaching staff and students. Existing

programs of this type should be expanded and incentives made so appealing that participation would be irresistible. The business, international trade and finance communities all have a vested interest in foreign language studies and should help in contributing to the incentives needed for such programs to be successful.

"As a nation," Coccia said, "we must accept the fact that we cannot be an island unto ourselves if we are to accept as basic the theory of international cooperation.

"We are aware that we are an interdependent world and that global concerns are gaining greater importance for people's lives.

"The political challenges of our times mandate the need for more Americans to speak and read a foreign language."

"Fluency in a foreign language, beyond improving one's job prospects in government or business, also allows one to become versed in another country's history and culture.

Descriptions often untrue

Menus lie, linguist says

United Press International
COLUMBUS, Ohio — A linguist specialist says most restaurant menus are liberally sprinkled with descriptions that are irrelevant, misleading or — occasionally — downright lies.

Take, for example, the word "fresh," which Ann D. Zwicky, a former Ohio State University lecturer, found was by far the most common adjective in a study of about 200 restaurant menus.

"There were descriptions like 'fresh frozen.' Sometimes you think they are using 'fresh' to mean something really minimal like 'not rotten,'" she says.

Then there's "homemade," which

when you read it on a restaurant menu, almost certainly can't mean the dish was made in somebody's home.

Zwicky, who with her husband and friends collected menus in varying price ranges from diverse regions of the United States and Canada, says many times French or French-sounding words are used. She says the "French" descriptions were most widely used on menus in places where few customers were likely to understand the language.

"There's a long association for English-speaking people with French as a language for food, a language for fashion and high culture," she says.

What's more, Zwicky said, much "French" on menus isn't used accurately.

"Many words on a menu which we accept as French aren't French at all. 'A la mode,' for example, is a French phrase which means 'in the manner of.' It has nothing to do with adding ice cream to the slice of pie."

Menu puffery like "garden fresh salad" instead of "salad" may be relatively harmless, but in some cases menu descriptions are downright lies.

"There is the butter problem," says Arnold Zwicky. "Butter and buttered appear in descriptions very often when what is in fact used is margarine."

FARMERS MARKET CATERING

A COMPLETE CATERING SERVICE

LET US CATER YOUR NEXT

BAR-B-QUE FUNCTION \$2⁹⁵ per plate

WE CATER TO ALL CLUB FUNCTIONS — DORMS, SORORITIES, FRATERNITIES, CORPS, DANCES, PICNICS.

We also cater wedding receptions up to 200 miles away. Call for more information.

2700 Texas Ave. - Bryan 779-6417

A BRAZOS VALLEY INSTITUTION



779-7500

1803 Texas Ave.

For an enjoyable meal with family and friends
AN AGGIE FAVORITE

1803 Texas Ave.

Bryan

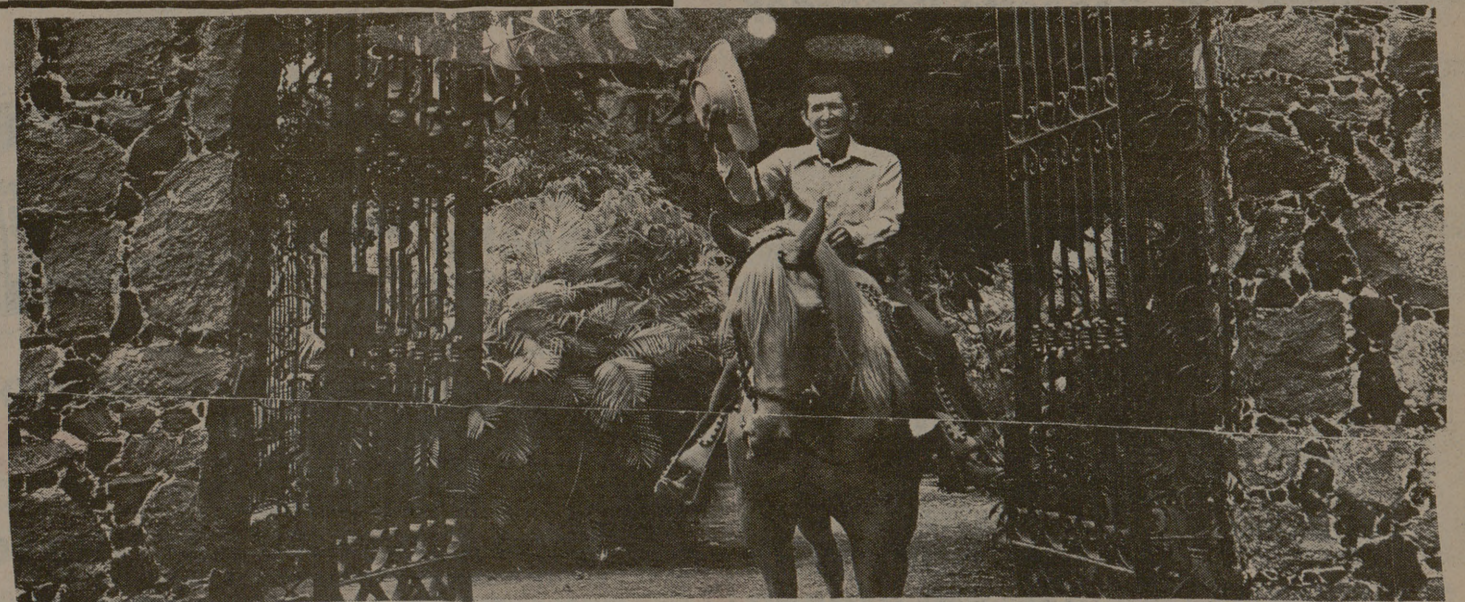


GUYS & GALS

Sebring Products — Perms — Hennas
Certified Hair Designers

4103 Texas Avenue S., Bryan
Suite 208

846-5018



Next time you're in Mexico, stop by and visit the Cuervo fabrica in Tequila.

Since 1795 we've welcomed our guests with our best. A traditional taste of Cuervo Gold.

Visitors to Cuervo have always been greeted in a special way.

They're met at the gates and invited inside to experience the unique taste of Cuervo Gold.

This is the way we've said "welcome" for more than 180 years. And it is as traditional as Cuervo Gold itself.

For this dedication to tradition is what makes Cuervo Gold truly special. Neat, on the rocks, with a splash of soda, in a perfect Sunrise or Margarita, Cuervo Gold will bring you back to a time when quality ruled the world.

Cuervo. The Gold standard since 1795.



CUERVO ESPECIAL® TEQUILA. 80 PROOF. IMPORTED AND BOTTLED BY © 1978 HUBLEIN, INC., HARTFORD, CONN.

MSC Cafeteria

Now Better Than Ever. You Will Be Pleased With These Carefully Prepared and Taste Tempting Foods. Each Daily Special Only \$1.99 Plus Tax. "Open Daily"

Dining: 11 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. — 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy Whipped Potatoes Your Choice of One Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Coffee or Tea

TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Chicken Fried Steak w/cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese - Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing - Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee

FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL

BREADED FISH FILET w/TARTAR SAUCE Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of one vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL

Yankee Pot Roast (Texas Style) Tossed Salad Mashed Potato w/ gravy Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee "Quality First"

SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING

ROAST TURKEY DINNER Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread - Butter - Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And your choice of any One vegetable